
**BOROUGH OF SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF**

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

SILENT REFLECTION AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL: 7:35 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON	LEONARD GILES - Present
VICE CHAIRPERSON	DORIS MCKEOWN - Absent
MEMBERS	VICKI HANLON - Present KATHRYN MOLOUGHNEY - Absent PATRICIA SKUBON - Present
HEALTH INSPECTOR	MIKE KOWAL
SECRETARY	MARY ELLEN KARAMUS

2. THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ON THE BOROUGH OF SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS WEBSITE AND ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

3. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA:

- Motion made by Board Member Hanlon; Seconded by Board Member Skubon. All Aye

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF: October 3, 2013 Meeting

- Motion to approve minutes made by Board Member Hanlon; Seconded by Chairperson Giles. All Aye

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Board Member liaison for MCRHC #1 meetings

- Chairperson Giles volunteered to continue as the Board's representative to the Commission and attend meetings.
- Chairperson Giles introduced Health Officer David Henry to the Board. He mentioned that Health Officer Henry has 30 years' experience in the field and is doing a "great job" with the Health Department.
- Health Officer Henry introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Henry outlined his intentions as the new Health Officer; one of which is to go out to the various locals Boards and introduce himself.
- Mr. Henry also mentioned that he was going to disburse the most recent Public Health Nurse report to familiarize the Board with that function.
- Mr. Henry addressed the issue of the TNR program. He disseminated some literature on the subject. He is not supportive of the program and outlined the negatives to such programs. He mentioned the incidence of rabies in cats. There are reported cases in Monmouth County of cats transmitting rabies to humans. There were two cases in Manalapan. Board Member Skubon inquired how rabies can be transmitted and Mr. Henry replied both through bites and/or scratches. The CDC has reported no benefit in terms of reducing feline population, or reducing rabies and its spread through TNR programs. He also pointed out that TNR programs do not protect people from rabies' attacks. Mr. Henry also brought up the fact that when food is used to attract the cats to an area where they can be trapped, you also attract other animals such as raccoons and other wildlife. He pointed out that the idea behind the TNR program is that you need to create a colony for the cats to come to. Mike Kowal brought up the fact that in the Borough of Spring Lake Heights we do not have vacant space which may be preferable for the location of the TNR program for people who wish to start such a program. Mr. Henry also mentioned that when you capture a kitten, or young cat, they may be vaccinated but it is virtually impossible to recapture that same cat in order to continue with the necessary vaccinations at a future time. All in all, Mr. Henry considers the colonization for the cats is an attractive nuisance for not only cats, but other animals and that there is no true benefit to TNR programs, and, therefore, strongly recommends the Borough not implement a TNR program. Mr. Henry also suggested that the preferable control of animals is to be a good domestic animal owner and immunize your animals and keep them close to home. Chairman Giles inquired about the safety of the people who actually implement the programs and are involved with the actual trapping. Mr. Henry and Mr. Kowal both agreed that it could be a danger to people who are handling the cats.
- Chairperson Giles strongly recommended that the Board of Health not endorse or support the TNR program. Board members were all in agreement.
- Board Member Skubon inquired about what a resident can do if a neighbor is a "cat lady" and Mike Kowal explained the challenges of a neighbor who feeds various animals, not just cats. He did explain that there is a Public

Health Nuisance Code that would apply if rodents are attracted to an area where other animals are being fed, but that people can feed various animals if they choose to do so.

- Chairperson Giles brought up the New Jersey Local Board of Health newsletter which he reviewed and found to have good information, and which offered online training in various areas which would be of interest to the Board members. Chairperson Giles was not able to sign up online and attempted to reach out to the online administrator, but was unable to do so and was still unable to sign up online. He was in contact with the Secretary of NJLBHA, and, once the site is up and running, he will attempt to access the online training.
- Chairperson Giles inquired of Mike Kowal if there was any local news to report. Mike responded that although it was back in the fall, our flu clinics showed improvement over the previous year's numbers. That may be because this year's clinic returned to the former schedule of two in the Borough; one at the Community Center, and one in Fairway Mews. Both are open to the public.
- Mike Kowal also reported that we had 52 dogs and cats at our Rabies Clinic.
- Mike reported that The Porch is being renovated, and, at this point, there are no issues concerning the Health Commission because it appears that there is no plan review concerning the kitchen.
- Chairperson Giles reported that he did attend the Health Fair in November and did participate in some of the screenings.
- Health Officer Henry brought up the prescription drop-off box that the Borough currently has located in the hallway in front of the Police Department window. He would like to follow up and gather some information from our Police Department concerning the implementation and maintaining of the prescription drop off. Chairperson Giles commented on the increase of painkiller addiction that he has seen in the recent past.
- Health Officer Henry inquired if there is currently a Farmers' Market here in the Borough. When told there is not, he mentioned the idea that all people in a community can help to enhance the public health incentive; not only himself and the Commission, but the public, local boards and government.
- Health Officer Henry also brought up the idea of our Borough being involved with a Mayor's Wellness project, which Spring Lake Heights currently is a member of, but has not implemented any wellness campaigns as of this time.
- Chairperson Giles inquired if there was any further discussion or anything to discuss. There was not.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

- NJLBHA Fall 2013 Newsletter
- 10.01.13 MCRHC #1 Correspondence, Re.: New Health Officer
- October Health Officer Report
- Fall Rabies Schedule
- November Health Officer Report
- S.L.H. Activity Report – 10.02.13 through 11.21.13
- December Health Officer Report
- 12.30.13 Feline TNR Program information
- S.L.H. Activity Report – 12.04.13 through 01.28.14
- Post-Health Fair Information

7. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC: None

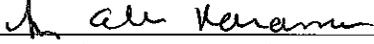
8. VOICE CLOSED BY / AT : PM

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

10. NEW BUSINESS: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION BY: Board Member Hanlon; Seconded by Board Member Skubon.
AT: 8:05 PM; ALL PRESENT IN AGREEMENT

SIGNED: 
MARY ELLEN KARAMUS
BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY